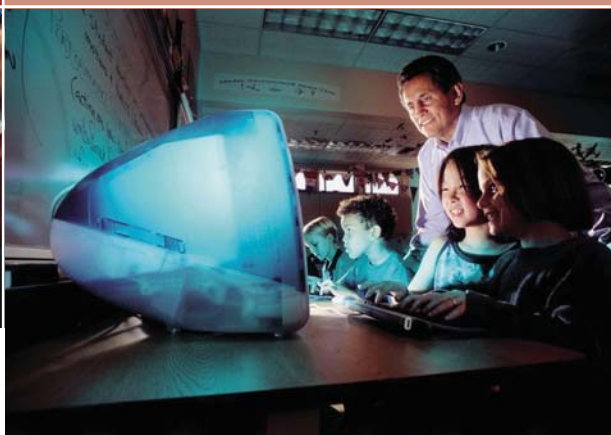


GOAL ONE

Provide leadership and coordination of K-12 technology services to improve educational opportunities in North Dakota.



STRATEGIES

- Expand the leadership role of the North Dakota Education Telecommunication Council (ETC).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of technology use in K-12 schools through a systematic assessment process.
- Identify additional web-based applications that meet K-12 customer needs, which can be deployed statewide to create efficiencies.
- Support the operation of Prairie School Television.
- Ongoing strategies.

Leadership and coordination of K-12 technology services are essential elements in enhancing educational opportunities across North Dakota.

The role of the North Dakota Education Telecommunication Council (ETC) will continue to grow in the coming years as it becomes recognized as the coordinating body for statewide technology initiatives. The merger and reorganization of the Center for Innovation in Instruction (CII) and Sendit Technology Services (STS) into EduTech will be completed and a single EduTech budget will be submitted for funding by the 2003 legislative session. The ETC will research the benefits of common hardware and software configurations for key K-12 local area network and desktop applications, and take on the responsibility of approving all school technology plans for state and federal purposes. In addition, the ETC will work closely with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and other state agencies on coordination of educational technology and information technology systems for K-12 schools.

To evaluate the effectiveness of technology integration, a school technology assessment has been deployed to gather data on the use of educational technology in a school district. As of September 2002, four North Dakota school districts had conducted comprehensive technology assessments. The assessment process was developed over the last three years by EduTech staff in conjunction with the North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium in Illinois. The process includes surveys of

teachers, administrators, students and parents; onsite interviews and observations by external evaluators, and evaluation of student work. EduTech will provide incentives to four or five North Dakota schools in 2002-2003 to complete a comprehensive technology assessment process. Five to six schools per year will participate in the technology assessment process as part of their school improvement work or as part of an evaluation of federally funded technology projects.

Based on the successful rollout of PowerSchool, a student information system, other high-need applications will be identified and pilot projects conducted to discover those network-based applications that can be efficiently implemented on a statewide basis. The North Dakota Information Technology Department, along with other vendors, will be evaluated as the statewide application service providers. Results will include increased effectiveness for K-12 schools and cost-savings statewide. Schools using the new services will pay the ongoing costs.

Based on successful implementation of Prairie School Television (PST) programming as a free service to North Dakota schools, the North Dakota ETC will seek continued funding to support its operation to help it expand in scope and usefulness to schools.

As in the past, the North Dakota ETC will continue to support the expanded use of technology in schools through a program of grants that focuses on high priority needs. Requiring districts to provide matching funds will continue to be part of the ETC grant programs.

“Assessing the impact of technology on student learning is a difficult but critical component of technology planning.”

